
U.S. Representative

John Spratt

South Carolina # 5th District

News Release

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Spratt Applauds House Vote on COPS

WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC) today applauded the House for continuing the “COPS” program that has put more police on the beat and reduced crime in South Carolina and across the nation.

The House voted yesterday to fund the program at \$1.01 billion for the next fiscal year, 19% more than President Bush requested.

COPS – Community Oriented Policing Services – is a federal grant program originally passed by a Democratic Congress in 1994. It has provided grants to help hire 100,000 new law enforcement officers in communities nationwide, including more than 100 officers in the 5th District.

“These additional police officers, who are patrolling neighborhoods in South Carolina right now, have made a difference,” said Spratt. “Violent crime is steadily decreasing and law enforcement officials everywhere agree that community policing works.”

COPS, enacted by President Clinton in 1994 as part of the Crime Bill, was initially funded at \$8.8 billion over six years. The goal was to hire 100,000 more police officers by the year 2000. COPS reached its goal in the spring of 1999, ahead of schedule and under budget.

“I gladly voted for it in 1994 and every year since then,” said Spratt. “It’s opponents claimed that it would barely put 20,000 new community police on patrol. I thought they were wrong then; we know they are wrong now.”

Experts have cited increases in federally funded community policing programs as one of the reasons for the significant reduction in violent crime nationwide.

“Law enforcement and local government officials all over my district tell me COPS is making a difference,” said Spratt. “I intend to keep supporting it. This is one grant that’s paying off, and that’s because it’s a common-sense response to crime. More officers on our streets mean fewer crimes on our streets and throughout our communities.”

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